



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement & Intelligence Subcommittee Ranking Member Seth Magaziner (D-RI)

Confronting Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to the U.S. Homeland

March 9, 2023

Make no mistake, China is the competitor with the greatest combination of intent and capacity to threaten U.S. global leadership. President Xi himself stated last year, that by 2049 he wants to ensure China and the CCP “lead the world in terms of composite national strength and international influence.” This is concerning for all of us who believe deeply that democracy and human rights must be advanced and protected here in our own country and across the world.

Just last year, FBI Director Christopher Wray sat before this Committee, in this very room, and warned that “[t]he greatest long-term threat to our nation’s information and intellectual property, and to our economic vitality, is the counterintelligence and economic espionage threat from China.”

Director Wray is not alone in his assessment. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo has warned that the Chinese Communist Party is “accelerating their efforts to fuse economic and technology policies with their military ambitions...in ways that are forcing us, compelling us, to defend United States businesses and workers.”

We have already seen the Chinese Communist Party threaten the safety and privacy of American citizens through:

- economic espionage and theft of US intellectual property
- the theft of personal data of American citizens through cyber attacks
- the recent use of a spy balloon and other methods of surveillance to illegally gather intelligence on American territory, and
- the buildup of military capabilities that seek to eclipse the United States and our democratic allies.

We must recognize the threat posed by the CCP and take immediate action to best-position the U.S. to confront China’s attempts to undermine our national security.

Today’s hearing is an opportunity for Members of this subcommittee to demonstrate that we are united in a bipartisan effort to defend the privacy and safety of the American people, to protect U.S. industries and supply chains, and enhance national security—all the while remembering that one of the most important ways to counter the Chinese Communist Party’s ambitions is to build an economy here at home that works for working people so we can show the world that our American system of democracy and freedom is more effective in lifting people up than the CCP model of autocracy and repression.

Democrats are committed to doing this work with our Republican colleagues in a spirit of collaboration.

Last year, thanks to the leadership of President Biden, Congress passed the bipartisan *CHIPS Act*, to invest \$280 billion into domestic semiconductor production that will enhance our national security, strengthen U.S. industry, create jobs, reduce inflation, and improve our competitiveness with China.

Under President Biden, the CIA has launched a dedicated China Mission Center and the State Department has launched a new Office of China Coordination, in order to strengthen the U.S. diplomatic, military and intelligence capabilities in meeting CCP threats.

It is my hope that today's hearing will further illuminate the CCP's strategies to undermine our democracy, our economy, and way of life—and how Congress can work together to meet these challenges.

As we do this work together we must remember that the people of China and people of Chinese origin experience oppression and human rights violations at the hands of the authoritarian Chinese Communist Party, and anti-Asian harassment and discrimination is too prevalent globally and here at home.

I want to be abundantly clear that we do not condone any anti-Chinese or anti-Asian bigotry, and we must condemn any acts of anti-Asian discrimination in the strongest possible terms. Our struggle is not with the Chinese people, but rather with the Chinese Communist Party that is increasingly hostile to democracy and human rights.

The Chinese Communist Party wants nothing more than to see Americans become divided and prejudiced. But they will be disappointed. Instead, we will out-compete the CCP by ensuring that America remains a beacon of freedom to the world and by continuing to provide safe harbor to those fleeing oppression and violence. That is how we will strengthen our nation and our economy. Let us not forget that.

Division and rancor is the goal of the CCP. We must stand together and work in a bipartisan fashion to show that we stand united and prepared in the face of their efforts to weaken our nation.

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